IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-26. (Canceled).

27. (New) A multiple access communication method for a base station that transmits an uplink status flag (USF) on a downlink slot, wherein when shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a first uplink slot is transmitted on a first downlink slot, and when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is transmitted on a second downlink slot.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a second uplink slot is transmitted on the second downlink slot.

29. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is different from a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the second uplink slot.

30. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink

slot and all consecutive uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the first downlink slot, and when the shifted USF operation is used, then the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot and all consecutive uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the second downlink slot.

31. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on an nth (n being an integer) uplink slot is transmitted on an nth downlink slot.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the nth uplink slot and all consecutive uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission is transmitted on the nth downlink slot.

33. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein eight consecutive uplink slots form an uplink TDMA frame and eight consecutive downlink slots form a downlink TDMA frame.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein if a USF for assigning an nth (n being an integer) uplink slot is transmitted on an nth downlink slot of a present downlink TDMA frame, the mobile station performs transmission on the nth uplink

slot of a next uplink TDMA frame or consecutive group of uplink TDMA frames.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein an offset between the uplink TDMA frame and the downlink TDMA frame is three slots or approximately three slots.

36. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception prior to re-configuration from transmission to reception.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is three slots.

38. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot.

39. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot and thirty one symbol periods timing advance offset.

40. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission prior to re-configuration from reception to transmission, and the time needed for performing

adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission is one slot.

41. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if three slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

42. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

43. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

44. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if six slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

45. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

46. (New) The method according to claim 42, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

47. (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

48. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

49. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the number of multi-slot class is any one of multi-slot classes 7, 34, 39 and 45.

50. (New) A base station that transmits an uplink status flag (USF) on a downlink slot, wherein when shifted USF operation is not used, then the base station apparatus transmits on a first downlink slot a USF which instructs a mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a first uplink slot, and when the shifted USF operation is used, then the base station apparatus transmits on a second downlink slot the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot.

51. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the base station apparatus transmits on the second downlink slot a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on a second uplink slot.

52. (New) The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot is different from a value of the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the second uplink slot.

53. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then the base station apparatus transmits on the first downlink slot a USF which

instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot and all consecutive uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission, and when the shifted USF operation is used, then the base station apparatus transmits on the second downlink slot the USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the first uplink slot and all consecutive uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission.

54. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then the base station apparatus transmits on an nth downlink slot a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on an nth (n being an integer) uplink slot.

55. (New) The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when the shifted USF operation is not used, then the base station apparatus transmits on the nth downlink slot a USF which instructs the mobile station to perform uplink transmission on the nth uplink slot and all consecutive uplink slots allocated for uplink transmission.

56. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein eight consecutive uplink slots form an uplink TDMA frame and eight consecutive downlink slots form a downlink TDMA frame.

57. (New) The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein if the base station apparatus transmits a USF for assigning an nth (n

being an integer) uplink slot on an nth downlink slot of a present downlink TDMA frame, the mobile station performs transmission on the nth uplink slot of a next uplink TDMA frame or consecutive group of uplink TDMA frames.

58. (New) The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein an offset between the uplink TDMA frame and the downlink TDMA frame is three slots or approximately three slots.

59. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception prior to re-configuration from transmission to reception.

60. (New) The apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is three slots.

61. (New) The apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot.

62. (New) The apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for reception is one slot and thirty one symbol periods timing advance offset.

63. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the mobile station performs adjacent cell signal level measurement and

preparation for transmission prior to re-configuration from reception to transmission, and the time needed for performing adjacent cell signal level measurement and preparation for transmission is one slot.

64. (New) The apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if three slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

65. (New) The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

66. (New) The apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if five slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

67. (New) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the shifted USF operation is used if six slots are allocated for the uplink transmission in the uplink TDMA frame.

68. (New) The apparatus according to claim 64, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

69. (New) The apparatus according to claim 65, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

70. (New) The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

71. (New) The apparatus according to claim 67, wherein an indication to use the shifted USF operation is automatic.

72. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the number of multi-slot class is any one of multi-slot classes 7, 34, 39 and 45.